

The Village of Dot Lake, a Federally recognized Alaskan Native Tribe, received a copy of the Draft Tribal Consultation Policy and upon review have the following comments:

1. We were very please to see all the references to Tribal sovereignty, Indian Tribes, Tribal Officials and Tribes. We were also please with the definitions of Indian Tribe and Tribal Official.

2. Under Section V COMMUNICATION, para. 3, Tribal leadership and representatives are mentioned. We would recommend that a definition for Tribal representative be included in the definition section to note that these are individuals appointed by a Tribe.

3. Under Section IX SUPPLEMENTAL POLICIES, we noted the reference to Alaskan Native Corporations. We are very concerned about this section because there is enough confusion about Alaskan Native Tribes and Alaskan Native Corporations. In the past there have been a number of occasions when an Alaskan Native Corporation such as the Alaskan Federation of Natives (AFN), a corporation comprised mainly of ANCSA Corporations have been consulted with on issues directly affecting Alaskan Natives with little or no input from Alaskan Native Tribes. An example was the so called Consultation conducted in September 2010 in Anchorage Alaska on the proposed Strategic Plan. It was conducted in September, which is our prime subsistence season. Notice was sent out on September 8th for a meeting on September 15. Our leaders did not get the notice until they returned from hunting on September 15th. The meeting was held with AFN and very few if any actual Tribal Leaders were there. Also there is no definition given for Alaskan Native Corporation. We have Regional profit and non-profit Corporations, Village Corporations, Tribal Corporations, etc. Which ones would consultations be with? It should also be noted that these corporations are not governments and should not be consulted with on a government-to-government bases.

We would also like to inform you that we sent a letter to Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk on October 8, 2010 expressing our concerns about the September meeting and not only did we not receive an answer, we did not even receive acknowledgment that it was received.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (907) 882-2695 (office), (907) 322-2694 (cell).

Thank you for your time

William Miller
President
Dot Lake Village Council